

Prairie Harvest, A Hardier Hackberry

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‘Oahe’ hackberry, originating from central South Dakota, performs well in South Dakota and the southern portion of Minnesota. However, winter dieback is often noted when Oahe is planted north of this region. A northern source hackberry (ND-3878) was selected from a large replicated evaluation planting at the ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory at Mandan, North Dakota. It averaged 26 feet tall at seventeen years of age, compared to Oahe at 19 feet. The original seed for this accession was collected by James Ayen from a natural stand of hackberry growing in a wooded area of the Red Lake River near Fisher in northwestern Minnesota. The landowner is Roger Wagner who operates a nursery and landscaping business on the site. Minnesota NRCS Area 1 staff helped collect seed in October 2008 from the original site. Cleaned seed was sent to nurseries in Minnesota and North Dakota for seedling production. Documentation will be prepared this winter and official release is scheduled for summer 2009. It will be released as a Selected Class Germplasm. Anticipated release cooperators will include NRCS, ARS, and the Agricultural Experiment Stations in Minnesota and North Dakota. It is anticipated that bare root seedlings will be available from conservation nurseries by 2011.



Breeder seed trees of the new northern source hackberry